

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH PARK
AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA**

ABSTRACT

LEAD AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida
Environmental Program Office
Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Cooperating Agency: Florida Space Authority
100 Spaceport Way
Cape Canaveral, Florida

Point of Contact: Mario Busacca
Lead, Planning and Special Projects
Environmental Program Office
Mail Code TA-C3
Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899
Phone: 321-867-8456
e-mail: Mario.Busacca-1@nasa.gov

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses the environmental impacts associated with the proposed development of the International Space Research Park (ISRP). Development of the ISRP is intended to bring new research and development (R&D) uses to John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Brevard County, Florida. NASA has entered into an agreement with the State of Florida, through the Florida Space Authority (FSA), to jointly study the development of up to 160 hectares (ha) (400 acres ((ac)) of land on KSC as a research park.

Kennedy Space Center is 56,500 ha (139, 490 ac) of land controlled by NASA within Brevard and Volusia Counties. The study area analyzed included KSC, Brevard County, and the five adjoining counties (Indian River, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties). The proposed ISRP alternative sites are located on KSC along the south portion of Kennedy Parkway South (i.e., State Road 3), the major north-south transportation arterial that allows public ingress and egress through KSC into Merritt Island and Titusville.

This EIS analyzed three alternatives to the proposed action. Two of the three alternative actions evaluated environmental impacts of the development and operation of the ISRP on approximately 140 hectares (ha) (345 acres (ac)) at two possible development locations on KSC. The third alternative analyzed and described the potential environmental impacts that may result if the proposed action is rejected. Alternative 1 proposes the development of the ISRP on land located immediately south of the KSC Visitors Complex along Space Commerce Way on a site that is dominated by citrus groves and includes remnant wetlands and disturbed

habitats. Alternative 2 proposes the development of the ISRP on land located on approximately 130 ha (321 ac) located northeast of the KSC south security gate (Gate #2) on Kennedy Parkway (State Road 3), near B Avenue SW (or Tel-4 Road). This site east of Kennedy Parkway is an undeveloped landscape, which is characterized by high quality scrub and wetlands. Both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 also considered the development of 10 ha (24 ac) east of Space Commerce Way within an existing citrus grove.

Implementation of the ISRP has the potential to generate environmental impacts related to the atmospheric environment, soils, hydrology and surface water, and biological resources within KSC. Some of the impacts could be significant without the implementation of mitigation measures. Most impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level if the mitigation measures recommended in this report were implemented.

The ISRP would support the collaborative missions of NASA and the Florida Space Authority, by providing for complementary research and development (R&D) objectives, NASA mission enhancement, public-private partnership opportunities, and space commercialization and development. As a center for R&D, the ISRP would bring together a dynamic mix of industry, academia, and government researchers to focus their combined strengths in areas of R&D critical to the long-term success of the NASA and its partners. The No Action Alternative would result in the loss of an opportunity for KSC to continue the pursuit of NASA's mission in relation to the enhancement of research and development to understand and protect our home planet, explore the Universe and search for life, and inspire the next generation of explorers